

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering at least one item or service from a provider to a receiver, the method comprising:

~~placing~~ receiving an order for at least one item or service with available from the provider and providing an order identifier in response thereto;

~~obtaining at least one piece of data~~ the order identifier from the receiver at the substantially a time of delivery; ~~the at least one piece of data being from a group consisting of a credit card number, information on the magnetic strip of a credit card, a debit card number, information on the magnetic strip of a debit card, a check, a money order, a gift certificate, information on a chip card, data included on a device storing information that may be read by infrared, magnetic waves, or radio waves, a gift certificate number, a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, an electronic signature, a copy of a piece of identification of the receiver, and a purchase order number;~~

~~providing the at least one piece of data~~ information regarding the order identifier obtained at the time of delivery to a financial processor;

~~in response to the at least one piece of data~~ information regarding the order identifier being provided to the financial processor, providing payment for the at least one item or service from the financial processor to the provider; and

~~in response to payment being provided to the provider, delivering the at least one item or service to the receiver.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the ~~at least one piece of data~~ information regarding the order identifier is provided to the provider prior to providing the ~~at least one piece of data~~ information regarding the order identifier to the financial processor.

3. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the at ~~least one piece of data~~ information regarding the order identifier is provided to the financial processor substantially immediately upon receipt at the time of delivery.

4. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the at ~~least one piece of data~~ information regarding the order identifier is provided to the financial processor with other ~~pieces of data~~ information from other transactions.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering at least one item or service from a provider to a receiver, the system comprising:

a provider of at least one of an item or a service, the provider being capable or receiving an order for the at least one item or service from the receiver and providing the receiver with an order identifier in response thereto;

a deliverer;

a financial processor;

at least one communication channel for providing communication between the provider, the deliverer, the financial processor, and ~~[[a]]~~ the receiver of the at least one of an item or a service; and,

a data gathering device for transmitting data about the order identifier obtained by the deliverer at substantially a time of delivery of the at least one of an item or service to at least one of the provider and the financial processor, whereby payment is provided for the at least one of an item or service in response to the transmitted data being provided to at least one of the financial processor and the provider and delivery is contingent upon said payment being provided, ~~the data obtained being at least one of a group consisting of a credit card number, information on the magnetic strip of a credit card, information on the magnetic strip of a debit card, a debit card number, data stored on a device storing information that may be read by infrared, magnetic waves, or radio waves, a check, a money order, a gift certificate, a gift certificate number, a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, an address of the receiver, a purchase order number, an electronic signature, and a copy of a piece of identification of a receiver of the at least one of an item or a service.~~

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining payment for an item or service near the time of delivery, comprising:

obtaining ~~identifying information~~ an order identifier from the intended recipient of at least one of an item and a service at substantially a time of delivery for the item or service, the order identifier being received by the intended recipient in response to an order for the at least one of an item and a service;

providing information about the obtained order identifier ~~identifying information~~ to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service;

receiving a determination as to whether payment for the item or service is at least one of approved and accepted based on the ~~obtained identifying information~~ about the obtained order identifier; and

delivering the item or service to the intended recipient when the received determination indicates that payment for the item or service is at least one of approved and accepted.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein:

obtaining ~~identifying information~~ an order identifier includes obtaining at least one piece of data selected from the group consisting of ~~a credit card number, information on the magnetic strip of a credit card, a debit card number, information on the magnetic strip of a debit card, a check, a money order, a gift certificate, information on a chip card, data stored on a device storing information that may be read by infrared, magnetic waves, or radio waves, a gift certificate number, a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, an electronic signature, a copy of a piece of identification of the receiver, and a purchase order number,~~ and a purchase order-type document.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, further comprising:

returning the item or service undelivered when the received determination indicates that payment for the item or service is not at least one of approved and accepted.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein:
providing the obtained identifying information to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service includes transmitting the ~~obtained identifying~~ information about the obtained order identifier to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service at substantially the time of delivery.

11. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the order identifier is selected from the group consisting of a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, a purchase order number, and a purchase order-type document.

12. (New) A system in accordance with claim 5 wherein the order identifier is selected from the group consisting of a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, a purchase order number, and a purchase order-type document.